Population control

670. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to fix any time bound schedule for Family welfare programmes;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to implement the policy on population control in a systematic and uniform manner; and

(d) if so, what are the programmes of Government on population control and what is the amount earmarked for the same for the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) India is the first country in the world to start the National Family Welfare Programme in 1952 with the objective of reducing the birth rate to the extent necessary to stabilize the population at a level consistent with the requirement of the national economy. In keeping with the democratic tradition of the country, the Family Welfare programme seeks to promote responsible and Planned Parenthood through voluntary and informed choice of family planning methods best suited to individual acceptors.

The National Population Policy, 2000 adopted in Feb. 2000, provides a policy framework for advancing goals and prioritising strategies to meet the **reproductive and child health** needs of the people and to achieve net replacement level *i.e.* Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.1 by 2010. It is based upon the need to simultaneously address issues of child survival, maternal health and contraception, while increasing outreach and coverage of a comprehensive package of reproductive and child health services with government, industry and the voluntary non-government sector, working in partnership.

To carry forward the above objective of National Family Welfare Programme the first phase of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH) programme was in operation since 1997. The second phase *i.e.* RCH-II programme has commenced from April, 2005 for a period of 5 years. The main objective of RCH-II is to bring about a change in the three critical health indicators *viz.* Total Fertility Rate (TFR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) consistent with the goal enshrined in the National Population Policy 2000.

The Government has launched National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) on 12th April, 2005 for providing integrated comprehensive Primary Healthcare Services, especially to the poor and vulnerable sections of the society throughout the country. The NRHM also aims to provide overarching umbrella to the existing programmes of Health and Family Welfare including RCH-II.

Population stabilization, gender and demographic balance are some of the objectives of NRHM. It provides a thrust for reduction of child and maternal mortality

and reduces the fertility rates. The Mission further seeks to build greater ownership of the programme among the community through involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, NGOs and other stake holders at National, State, District and Sub-District levels to achieve the goals of National Population Policy 2000 and National Health Policy.

The approved outlay for the NRHM for the year 2007-08 is Rs.11010 crore and projected requirement of funds during 2008-09 is Rs. 17290 crore. Funding requirement for population stabilisation activities of the respective states will also be met out of the above outlay.

Free treatment to AIDS patients

671. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India tops the list of nations which are infected with AIDS/ HIV virus;

(b) if so, the reasons for the failure in checking the virus;

(c) whether Government would offer free testing, counselling and treatment in all hospitals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per the revised estimates India has the third largest number of infected persons after South Africa and Nigeria. The prevalence rates in the country over the last four year has stabilized at around 0.38% indicating success of the programme in checking the virus.

(c) and (d) Free testing and counseling facilities through 4132 Integrated Counseling and Testing Centres and anti-retroviral treatment at 127 government hospitals are provided under the Programme.

AIDS cases in the country

672. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has an estimated 2.5 million people living with HIV/AIDS, and the prevalence of HIV in the general population is now 0.36 per cent against 0.9 per cent as earlier;

(b) whether this makes India the third worst affected country with the deadly disease after South Africa and Nigeria; and

(c) if so, what are the steps Government proposed to take to improve its position further?